

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 04753 041418Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 NEAE-00 MC-02
ACDA-07 EB-08 TRSE-00 AID-05 IGA-02 OMB-01 /075 W
-----041432Z 052082 /50

O 041254Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2399
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMCONSUL MADRAS
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 4753

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR MASS IN PK US
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER VAJPAYEE ON US ARMS TO PAKISTAN

REF: NEW DELHI 4629, STATE 72195

1. REPLYING TO A CALL ATTENTION MOTION IN THE
RAJYA SABHA APRIL 4, FOREIGN MINISTER VAJPAYEE
SAID THAT INDIA HAD CONVEYED ITS "CONCERN" TO THE US
OVER THE REPORTED INTENTION TO SELL ARMS TO PAKISTAN.
VAJPAYEE STATED THAT THE GOI HAS SEEN US PRESS ACCOUNTS
THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD APPROVED THE SALE OF OVER
TWO BILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF ARMS TO A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES,
INCLUDING PAKISTAN. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT UNTIL THE PROPOSAL WAS FOR-

MALLY SUBMITTED TO THE CONGRESS THE
PRECISE LIST OF MATERIAL AVAILABLE FOR SALE TO DIFFERENT
COUNTRIES WOULD NOT BE KNOWN. HE ALSO STATED, ACCORDING
TO SAMACHAR : "WE UNDERSTAND, HOWEVER, THAT THE SALES
PERTAIN TO AN ONGOING PROGRAM GOING BACK SEVERAL YEARS
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FOR REFURBISHING OF EQUIPMENT PREVIOUSLY SUPPLIED BY THE US TO
PAKISTAN". VAJPAYEE SAID THAT INDIA HAD NORMALIZED ITS
RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN AND WANTED TO INCREASE BILATERAL
COOPERATION TO ENSURE THAT THE SUB-CONTINENT REMAINED
FREE FROM TENSION". HE ADDED: "WE HAVE OFTEN IN THE PAST
AND MORE RECENTLY BROUGHT TO THE NOTICE OF THE US GOVERNMENT
OUR CONCERN AT THE DANGER OF ARMS SALES WHICH COULD UPSET

THIS PROCESS".

2. VAJPAYEEWENT ON TO SAY THAT THE GOI HAD NOTED WITH SATISFACTION THE REPORTS THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WAS ADVOCATING RESTRAINT IN THE TRANSFER AND SALE OF ARMS TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. HE HOPED THAT US ARMS SALES POLICIES WOULD NOT REVERSE THE TREND TOWARD NORMALIZATION IN THE SUB-CONTINENT.

3. THE CALL ATTENTION MOTION WAS TABLED BY CONGRESS MP PRAKASH VIR SHASTRI AND 13 OTHER MP'S TO EXPRESS CONCERN OVER "THE REPORTED DECISION OF THE US GOVERNMENT TO SELL LARGE QUANTITIES OF ARMS TO PAKISTAN". DURING THE DEBATE, CPI MP KALYAN ROY SAID THAT US ARMS SUPPLIES TO PAKISTAN HAD BEEN THE "BIGGEST SINGLE FACTOR" IN CREATING TENSION BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN. CONGRESS MP H. D. MALAVIYA CLAIMED THAT THE CIA CONTROLLED A MASSIVE AMERICAN MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX AND ASKED WHY THE GOI HAD NOT PROTESTED THE SALE BY THE US OF OFFENSIVE WEAPONS TO PAKISTAN. VAJPAYEE REPLIED THAT "OUR INFORMATION SO FAR IS THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD NOT ACCEPTED THE PAKISTANI DEMAND FOR THE SUPPLY OF A-7 BOMBERS". HE SAID THAT INDIA HAD NO PLANS TO PURCHASE ARMS FROM THE US , ADDING , HOWEVER, THAT WHILE THERE WAS NO NEED TO LODGE A PROTEST, "WE SHALL FURTHER CLARIFY THE POSITION WITH THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT." HE ALSO SAID THAT INDIA WAS PREPARED TO SIGN A NO- WAR PACT WITH PAKISTAN TO FORM THE BASIS OF STABLE PEACE IN THE SUBCONTINENT.

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4. COMMENT: DURING THE EMERGENCY THE GOVERNMENT COULD ORCHESTRATE POTENTIALLY DIFFICULT QUESTIONS ON SENSITIVE TOPICS SUCH AS US ARMS SALES TO PAKISTAN AND CONTROL HOW THEY WERE TREATED IN THE PRESS. WITH THE RETURN TO AN OPEN SOCIETY, AND ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NEW JANATA GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING MANY WHO WERE OUTSPOKEN OPPONENTS OF ANY US ARMS TRANSFERS TO PAKISTAN, QUESTIONS ON THE FLOOR OF THE PARLIAMENT ARE GOING TO BE MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO HANDLE. DURING A BRIEF CONVERSATION ON THE EVENING OF APRIL 3, THE FOREIGN MINISTER MENTIONED THE DIFFICULTY HE EXPECTED IN CONNECTION WITH THE QUESTION OF ARMS TRANSFER TO PAKISTAN PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF ITS ARISING AT THE PRESENT TIME. WE CONCLUDE THAT WITH THE PASSING OF THE EMERGENCY THE ERA WHEN THE GOI COULD AFFORD TO BE CASUAL ABOUT THE MORE ROUTINE ARMS TRANSFERS MAY BE OVER. SCHNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NEWDE04753
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770116-0775
Format: TEL
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770491/aaaadbiw.tel
Line Count: 115
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: ECT: FOREIGN MINISTER VAJPAYEE ON US ARMS TO PAKISTAN
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, IN, PK, US, (VAJPAYEE, ATAL BEHARI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/de3301ab-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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